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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. | | |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|--|--|
| 10/520,683 | 07/14/2005 | Holger Von Hayn | PC10706US | 5197 | | |
| 23122 | 7590 | 01/05/2010 | EXAMINER | | | |
| RATNERPRESTIA P.O. BOX 980 VALLEY FORGE, PA 19482 | | | | KING, BRADLEY T | | |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | | | |
| 3657 | | | | | | |
| MAIL DATE | | DELIVERY MODE | | | | |
| 01/05/2010 | | PAPER | | | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/520,683 | VON HAYN ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Bradley T. King | 3657 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 October 2009.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 22-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 26-29,31,32 and 34 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 22-25,30-33,35-38 and 42 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 39-41 and 43 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 22-25, 36-38 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hartl et al (US# 5813230).

Hartl et al discloses all the limitations of the instant claims including; comprising a simulator 2 which can be acted upon by a brake pedal, with an output signal of an actuation sensor being sent to an electronic control unit which controls a pressure source in response to the signal of the actuation sensor, and with an output of the pressure source that is connected to a distributor device for the brake force and actuates individual wheel brakes of the vehicle (see column 3, lines 13-25), also comprising means for enabling actuation of the brakes by muscular power within a fallback mode(column 3, lines 34-60), wherein a lost travel is provided between a first actuation component 1 defined as a component articulated at the brake pedal and a second actuation component 33 that is connected downstream in the flux of force are configured relative to one another such that the first actuation component 1 is freely moveable relative to the second actuation component 33 in a direction toward the second actuation component prior to actuation of the brake pedal such that a lost travel

(via space 39) is defined between the first and second actuation components in order to uncouple the first actuation component mechanically from the reactions of force of the motor vehicle brake system in a by-wire mode. See figure 3. The embodiments of figures 1-2 and 4 are also applicable.

Regarding claim 23, means 35-37.

Regarding claim 24, see electromagnetic actuator 36. also note column 6, lines 62-64.

Regarding claim 25, see clutch 35-37.

Regarding claim 36, see spring 32.

Regarding claim 37, see figure 1.

Regarding claims 38 and 42, the clutch shaft 33 or 29 is engagable with the input member in an axial direction.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 30, 33 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hartl et al (US# 5813230).

Regarding claim 30, Hartl et al disclose all the limitations of the instant claim with exception to the explicit disclosure of a pneumatic booster. Instead, Hartl suggests the

broader “power brake device”. The Examiner takes official notice that pneumatic boosters are a well known type of power brake device. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize a pneumatic booster, as known in the art, for the power brake device of Hartl et al as an obvious means of implementing the device which yields the predictable results of proper brake actuation.

Regarding claims 33 and 35, Hartl et al discloses all the limitations of the instant claims with exception to the explicit disclosure of detecting deviations with a pressure sensor. Hartl et al does disclose the detection of a functional disturbance of the brake system and activate a fall-back mode, however the reference is silent as to the manner of sensing the disturbance. The Examiner takes official notice that it is well known in the art to determine brake function of a hydraulic brake system through pressure sensor readings and deviations.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to monitor pressure deviations in the device of Hartl et al, as known in the art, as an obvious means of determination of the functional disturbance which yields the predictable results of proper emergency detection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 39-41 and 43 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10/13/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding the recitation that the first actuation component is freely moveable relative to the second actuation component, it is noted that functional limitations are treated based on the structure imparted by the functional language. In this case, the claim recitation uses functional language to define the arrangement of the first component relative to the second component. Therefore, the structure imparted by the functional language merely requires a structure that allows a lost travel between the two components. It is maintained that the structural arrangement of elements 1 and 33 of Hartl et al fits this requirement. Applicant's arguments regarding the overall operation of the device of Hartl et al are not persuasive because the functional language of the claim only appears to be defining the connection of the two elements, not the overall operation of the device. Also note MPEP 2114.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bradley T. King whose telephone number is (571) 272-7117. The examiner can normally be reached on 11:00-7:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Siconolfi can be reached on (571) 272-7124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Bradley T King/

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Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3657

BTK